Golden Demon Awards

The Golden Demon Awards are a unique event in the role player's calendar – Mark Smiddy went along to find out more.

The Golden Demon Awards are held annually in Nottingham by Games Workshop, where model painters of all ages show off their talents and compete gainst each other for the coveted two handed Golden Demon Slayer sword. Included in this year's events were medieval combat displays, a fancy dress and speed painting contest as well many of the experts displaying their creative talents.

Of the main event, one of the judges remarked that all of the entries had been of a very high standard, some even surpassing the work of the pros themselves.

Overall winner of the contest was Ivan Bartleet – with his vignette of a battle mammoth. The beautifully crafted figure was built from scratch and the result of over 400 hours work. Ivan comes from Birmingham and is now a freelance figure painter after studying design at university.

Bryan Ansell – the man described as the Richard Branson of the games world – sees the future of role-playing games in computers. He told C + VG: "We already have plans to create the ultimate system on the new generation of 16 bit computers like the Amiga, ST and Macintosh." And, although he was understandably cagey about details, he would concede that the system could involve hundreds of human players all linked by a single super computer. "This system will be the closest thing to real life as yet," he added.

But are board games dead yet? Jervis Johnson – designer of the sporting spoof, Blood Bowl – told C + VG that it was expected to sell over five million units in its lifespan. Similar figure are expected for other recent titles with the new Warhammer 40,000 currently outselling everything.

Tennis Accolade

E.A.'s Accolade label release a series of new sports sims for the Christmas market. *Serve and Volley* is a tennis game with different levels of difficulty, a selection of serves and hits (slice, lob etc) and a two player option. Each match can be saved for later, and the computer can make predictions on results based on past performance. It all sounds dead whizzo.

Other new sims are *T.K.O.*, a boxing game with big sprites and realistic broken lips (ugh!), *Rack 'em* (a snooker sim) and Fast Break (a basketball sim where you can select pre-set offensive and defensive plays or develop your own).

They all sound like very comprehensive and thorough representations, though perhaps you'll have to be an expert in each particular sport before you can play them! All are £9.95/14.95 on C64 and are staged through September (Serve and Volley) to December (T.K.O.) at monthly intervals. PC versions (£24.95) will be available for the tennis and snooker games.

Sega Activision in '89

Activision has signed for five of the top new Sega arcade games conversion rights. These include space shoot 'em up Galaxy Force, currently the number one arcade game in the US and Japan; chase/beat 'em up Altered Beast: Sonic Boom, fighter plane game; Hot Rod racing game and Ace Attacker, volleyball sports sim.

The titles will appear some on the Activision label, some packaged as Electric Dreams.

C + VG arcade aces Clare Edgeley and Seamus St John have to admit they were non too impressed with Galaxy force for one in the arcades, but we all know that has nothing to do with it making a good home computer home . . . don't we?

TIME TUNNELS

Times of Lore, on Microprose's Origin label, comes out in early September on the 64, with Amstrad, Amiga, ST, IBM and Speccy following later in the month. The shots are from a slightly unfinished version, so it should be looking pretty hot by release time.

SPECTRUM TOP TEN

1	European Five-a-Side – Firebird
2	Football Manager 2 – Addictive
3	Beach Buggy Sim – Firebird
4	Where Time Stood Still – Ocean
5	Stunt Bike Simulator – Firebird
6	Air Wolf – Encore
7	Ghostbusters – Mastertronic
8	Rocky Horror Show – Alternative
9	Battleships – Encore
10	Frank Bruno's Boxing – Encore

European Five a Side returns to the top spot alongside two other high rising Firebird cheapies, and Ocean's Where Time Stood at last enters the top ten at number four.

AMSTRAD TOP TEN

1	Football Manager 2 – Addictive
2	Air Wolf – Encore
3	ACE – Cascade
4	Stunt Bike Simulator – Firebird
5	Rocky Horror Show – Alternative
6	Super Stuntman – Codemasters
7	Beach Buggy Sim – Firebird
8	Battleships – Encore
9	European Five-a-Side – Firebird
10	Frank Bruno's Boxing – Encore

Football Manager 2 retains its grip on the top of the charts, as Stunt Bike Sim and Battleships re-enter. The number one spot is the only one held down by a full price game.

C64 TOP TEN

1	Football Manager – Addictive
2	European Five-a-Side – Firebird
3	Bruce Lee – Americana
4	Battleships – Encore
5	Ninja Scooter Sim – Firebird
6	ACE – Cascade
7	Yogi Bear – Alternative
8	Rally Driver – Alternative
9	Stunt Bike Simulator – Firebird
10	Sam Fox Strip Poker – React

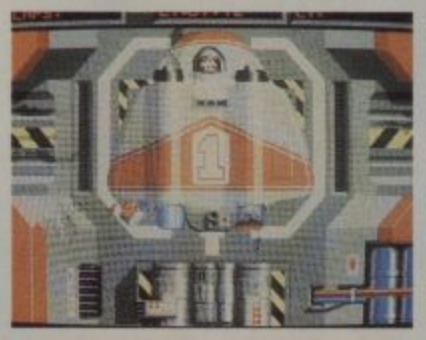
European Five-a-Side goes up 12 to 12, while Footie Manager 2 is once more the only full pricer in the top ten.

Fax

Powerplay

Latest in the 16 bit 3D graphics stuff is Powerdrome from Electronic Arts. It's a futuristic racing sim from UK programmer Michael Powell, featuring humps, turns and sliding gates as obstacles in a low level jet race.

There are six races set on different planets with different backdrops and weather conditions to be aware of, chances to tune your racer to optimum performance and a duel player option that apparently requires you to link two machines. There is even the now familiar rear view display showing the following racers. ST is out in late September at £24.95, with the Amiga following in November.



Skelter Glimpsed

Paul Woakes is a very busy man indeed. Not only is he currently working on Damocles (see feature on page 12) he's also developing a new space shoot 'em up called Skelter. It features filled-vector graphics, is played from some very unusual perspectives and looks like a sort of 3D Asteroids. More news when we have it; as for now you'll have to make do with this screenshot.

Spit and Polish

"It really is completely brilliant!", says Domark modestly, and indeed, it is quite a licence to get their mits on. For lo! they have acquired the rights to TV satire show Spitting Image, and promise us a suitably irrelevant computer game. You get to oppose six world leaders (Maggie, "Mad dog" Reagan, Gorby, P.W. Botha, or his holiness the Pope) in a battle for world power.

Can you rumble their devious ruses, or will they retain credibility and get control? At least there's no problem of power corrupting: they're all corrupt already!

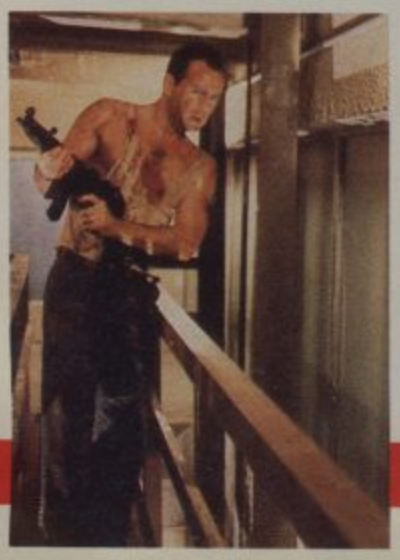
We're promised hilarious fights, toilet humour and the odd naughty word. But will it be funny? That's what counts. Available on all major 8 and 16 bit formats well in time for Christmas.

Bruce Willis Invaders

Mediagenic has signed up Moonlighting "superstar" Bruce Willis for their latest project. Or, rather, they've got his image on sprite for Die Hard, a cop thriller with a Christmas feel. Bruce will be playing a wise-cracking but hard boiled detective laying seige to 12 holed up terrorists. The film is apparently doing exceptional business in the States even as we speak, but you'll have to hold off until next year for the game.

Meanwhile, big Arnie Schwarzenegger will soon be the undisputed king of the sprites as his little figure appears on yet more programs. Gram Slam now has the rights to the Running Man sci-fi thriller (see Big Screen) while Ocean are planning to convert his as yet unreleased Red Russian cop film.

Elite also have their computer sports quiz a Question of Sport based on the well known TV show for October, but since it's not half as glam as the rest, we won't mention it.



Interstellar Pursuit

Available shortly is Genus II – Trivial Pursuit, Domark's second attempt to convert the famous board game to the small screen. The game sends you from a doomed earth in search of the paradise world Genus II, on a trip on which you can only make progress by proving your mettle at triv with the various alien brings you meet. New questions and and an extensive framing sequence help make it quite a step on/away from (take your pick) the original concept of the game.

ALL FORMATS COMBINED TO TOP TEN

1	Football Manager 2 – Addictive
2	European Five a Side – Firebird
3	Air Wolf – Encore
4	ACE – Cascade
5	Stunt Bike Simulator – Firebird
6	Steve Davis S'ker – Blue Ribbon
7	Frank Bruno's Boxing – Encore
8	Beach Buggy Simulator – Firebird
9	Battleships – Elite
10	Way of the E'dng Fist – M'tronic

Firebird continues to outsell Alternative overall by a tiny margin, but both must keep a watch out for Encore who once again increase their market share considerably. Though Virus continues to do well, it is the footie games that dominate this time round.

ATARI ST TOP TEN

1	Virus – Firebird
2	Football Manager 2 – Addictive
3	Outrun – Sega/US Gold
4	Gauntlet 2 – US Gold
5	Empire strikes Back – Domark
6	Space Harrier – Elite
7	Alien Syndrome – ACE
8	Dungeon Master – Mirrorsoft
9	Carrier Command – Rainbird
10	Sidewinder – Mastertronic

Virus sticks in the top slot, while Sidewinder re-enters at the bottom and Elite and Ace score new entries with Space Harrier and Alien Syndrome.

AMIGA TOP FIVE

1	Interceptor – Electronic Arts
2	Football Manager 2 – Addictive
3	Corruption – Rainbird
4	Black Lamp – Firebird
5	Ikari Warriors – Elite

Black Lamp and Footie Two re-enter, and Rainbird's Corruption leaps in at number 3, while the excellent Interceptor retains the top spot.